



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2016-2107 KENTUCKY AMERICORPS GRANTS

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteers and Service (KCCVS) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) are pleased to announce the availability of federal funds to support new Kentucky AmeriCorps programs to start September 1, 2016 for a 12-month program cycle.

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. CNCS – through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund – has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action. The mission of the KCCVS is to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact our communities. In addition, the Commission endeavors to elevate, promote and recognize volunteerism and civic and youth engagement statewide.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$5,730 from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans. Members who serve in a less than full-time capacity receive an education award based upon position enrolled in.

WHY SHOULD MY ORGANIZATION APPLY FOR A KENTUCKY AMERICORPS PROGRAM?

AmeriCorps provides people-power. Funds provided through the Kentucky AmeriCorps programs support a team of members who provide direct service to build or improve communities and services provided and generate volunteers to support their efforts. If there are needs in your community and/or organization in the priority areas (below) that you believe can be addressed by the involvement of people serving together, then this program may be a good fit for your organization. Grant funds can considerably enhance current programs, but cannot duplicate or displace current employees.

WHAT ARE THE 2016 AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS & FUNDING PRIORITIES?

CNCS' purpose is to maximize the power of service and volunteering to improve lives in communities across the country. Through all its programs, CNCS expands economic opportunity – helping Americans acquire the skills, education, and training they need for

productive employment. By helping more Americans graduate, pursue higher education and find work, national service provides immediate and long term benefits by expanding individual opportunity, building family stability, and creating more sustainable, resilient communities. In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, CNCS is targeting AmeriCorps funding to the following focus areas:

- **Disaster Services**
- **Economic Opportunity**
- **Education**
- **Environmental Stewardship**
- **Healthy Futures**
- **Veterans and Military Families**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations; education entities, institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); labor organizations; partnerships and consortia; and Indian Tribes are encouraged to apply. CNCS encourages organizations that have never received funding from the CNCS or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this Notice.

WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are two types of grants available: competitive grants, which are usually funded for a three-year cycle; and formula grants, which are funded on a year-to-year basis. Additional funding for the remainder of the three-year cycle is contingent upon numerous factors, including, but not limited to, satisfactory performance, demonstrated capacity to manage the grant, compliance with grant requirements, agency priorities and the availability of appropriated funds.

PROGRAM SIZE AND GRANT AMOUNT

Programs must be large enough to achieve a demonstrable impact on the community served. Thus, while the actual size of each program may vary depending on the size of the community and/or organization it operates in, the design of the program, and other factors, applicants must apply for a minimum of twenty (20) AmeriCorps members. A 20-member full-time program averages \$274,600 in federal funds annually and requires match funds.

IS THERE A MATCH REQUIREMENT?

There is an overall grantee match requirement of 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. This match can be cash and/or in-kind. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50 percent by the tenth year of funding. Other federal funds used as match for this program must be pre-approved, tracked and reported.

DO PLACEMENT SITES CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THE COST OF SUPPORTING AMERICORPS MEMBERS?

Partner contributions to AmeriCorps programs depend on the structure of individual partnerships and programs. In some cases, placement sites do contribute cash to the program; in other cases, placement sites might contribute in-kind services, supplies, trainers, facilities, evaluation expertise, or other services and equipment. Each partnership is unique to a given location and program.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATING AN AMERICORPS PROGRAM?

- Recruiting, selecting, placing, training and supervising AmeriCorps members.
- Designating a full-time coordinator to manage the program.
- Submitting progress reports reflecting progress towards meeting performance measurements, monthly expenditure reports and financial status reports.
- Participating in training and technical assistance sessions for program directors and staff.
- Participating in statewide AmeriCorps member events and activities.

WHAT IF YOU ONLY WANT TO INVOLVE ONE OR A FEW AMERICORPS MEMBERS?

You have numerous options, some of which include: Find an agency to apply for and manage the funds (as a fiscal agent) that would then place the members at host service sites throughout a community, county, region or statewide; Search our online program directory of [current AmeriCorps programs](#) which will provide you with names and contact information for programs in your area; and/or Contact the CNCS Kentucky State Office, which manages AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and Senior Corps programs. For more information on AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Service Corps, email ky@cns.gov or call 502-582-6384.

WHERE CAN I FIND INSTRUCTIONS AND WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DUE?

The Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) documents may be accessed on the [CNCS website](#). Grant applications are due to the KCCVS via [eGrants](#) no later than **Nov. 24, 2015**. A **Letter of Intent** and a completed **Organization Readiness Assessment** must be completed and submitted to the KCCVS no later than **Nov. 4, 2015**. Both of these documents may be obtained from KCCVS Program Officer [Carrie Stith-Webster](#). The KCCVS will provide applicants with additional instructions once the completed documentation has been received.

For more information, contact Carrie Stith-Webster at carrie.stith-webster@ky.gov or 502-564-7420 x3842.